Chicago Public Schools  
School Utilization Community Meetings  
Summary

Date/Time of Meeting: February 7, 2013, 7-9 PM

Network: Skyway

Region/Schools focused on in discussion: Ashe and New Sullivan

Round: I

Disclaimer: The following are notes of the discussions in the individual break-out sessions. They do not provide verbatim records or a comprehensive summary of what was said. Also, these notes do not represent the point-of-view of the facilitators or of CPS personnel. Any questions about these notes should be addressed to CPS staff.

Pre-Break Out Session/Public Hearings

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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Elements Most Important to School /Why “We Should Stay Open”?/General Suggestions</th>
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| Ashe     | • Split classes with 34 – 45 students  
• Special Programs: mentoring; take students to Washington annually  
• Safety an issue- students got run out of Avalon Park with guns  
• Probation 9 years – high mobility rate because surrounded by temporary housing |
| Avalon Park | • Performing Arts Schools  
• Partnerships: ETA, Columbia College  
• Put sports back into schools – basketball, football and baseball with artificial field  
• Strong supportive alumni association – Facebook – added 200 + members in the last three days  
• Upper 80 percentile but haven’t moved up  
• Promised a new building 10 years ago  
• Blue Ribbon School; State Spotlight Award which contradicts CPS’s Level 3 designation  
• Principal moved to King College Preparatory  
• No afterschool programs  
• Parents come of pocket last 10 years |
| Caldwell | • Moved from Level 3 to Level 2 in one year with new administration  
• Overcrowded  
• Community School – parents and adults use fitness center  
• Diverse curriculum: French, Technology, Art and Physical Education  
• Helping Hand Program – help the community through monthly |
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| Heroes (30 people started with them) | - Need more funding to keep programs open<br>- Opened up after a safety issue occurred with old school – current environment is safe and secure<br>- Most transient neighborhood in Chicago<br>- Teacher vested in 'After School' Program and effective advocates<br>- Enrollment undercounted 470 vs. 420<br>- Received commendation from IL State Board of Education 2 years ago while CPS rates it as Level 3<br>  
  o 6th – 8th Graders scored 80th – 90th percentile<br>- Programs: Gifted, ROTC |
| Madison                | - Fine Arts School- space is used for arts, dance and music<br>- Environment is safe and caring – staff subsidizes uniforms, food and bus fares<br>- Questions utilization and how they are counting library, arts space – it is an ‘age appropriate environment’<br>- Some 8th Grade students got into selective enrolment high schools<br>- Safety concerns: cannot cross Stony Island or go under the viaduct<br>- Multiple generations attended Madison |
| Mann                   | - Knowledgeable administration<br>- Early adopters of IL Common Core Standards<br>- After school programs on Saturday and Sunday<br>- Comprehensive recess with visual, communication, Africa Dance, PE<br>- Teacher Tutorial Programs<br>- Partnerships: Chicago Cares, Global Girls, New Life Church (pastor spoke about adoption) |
| McDade – Level 1       | - Overcrowded - need space for 7th and 8th Grade, lunch program<br>- Students have equal access to top high schools |
| Mireles                | - Student population: 9.7% Special Needs (not ADA compliant), 27.6% Hispanic<br>- Partnerships: SCAC YMCA< CAPS,<br>- Largest elementary<br>- Old school 1920 – needs to be revamped<br>- Safety: non-functioning school cameras and computers recently stolen<br>- Pipes broken and flooded library |

**General Learning**
- Desire to see data that compares performance of Charter and Private Schools to CPS
- Utilization data is misleading especially if schools have transient populations and it is unclear how they measure special education, labs, etc
- Perceptions that there are less services and resources given to south side schools vs. north side schools
- Discrepancies between State rankings where schools are rated a Blue Ribbon School while CPS may rank it a Level 3
School Specific Learning

Ashe

Ashe: 5 empty classes. Turn rooms into music room art room. More teachers have 35 students. Understand that they are on probation. Why are you closing most of the schools? If you think any schools are at any level it doesn't matter because we are still learning? We are still learning even though we are a level 3 school. They are going to try to get us to get all A's on our report card. If you close down the schools in our area where would we go because if we go to a school out of our area we might get hurt. WE think that every school should stay open. We need more security because of the gangs.

Ashe student: I believe that our school shouldn't be closed down because even though is at level 3 the kids are still learning. On my progress report I got two A's and two C's. Even though I don't feel like getting up to go to school I like to get up to go learn. If our school was a welcoming school a lot of fights would break out. There would...probably cause other students to fight.

Ashe students: We should get more teachers so we won't be crowded in a classroom.

New Sullivan

New Sullivan teacher: We have ballroom dancing, visual arts we are fine and performing arts magnet school..and award winning band, new playground equipment. Our school is 11 years old. If we close our school where would the children access the programs our school offers. We have book nooks everywhere so that kids everywhere have the opportunity to read...we are a school on the rise. How is it if we close the school how do we have the opportunity to move from Bus children from the north side to the south side to schools that are underutilized how would that impact our children? A lot of teachers that lose their jobs...teachers that live in the neighborhood...what happens to the neighborhood if the teachers lose their jobs and need to relocate.

New Sullivan: If Sullivan is a receiving school and you consolidate others schools what happens to the teachers at the schools, will we have more teachers provided to us to maintain small class sizes. If you are closing schools you should take the teachers from the other schools and bring them in.
Suggestions for Making the Consolidation Process Smoother for Students, Parents and Teachers

New Sullivan

Further destabilization of neighborhoods

A lot of teachers will lose their jobs...teachers that live in the neighborhood...what happens to the neighborhood if the teachers lose their jobs and need to relocate?

Need additional teachers from the consolidating school

We need more teachers provided to us to maintain small class sizes. If you are closing schools you should take the teachers from the other schools and bring them in.

Community and atmosphere of New Sullivan will facilitate the transition

If we are given the opportunity to continue our curriculum....other children are not just going to find another school...they are going to find a FAMILY. Before I came to New Sullivan, I was told that the police were there every day. You have a staff that supports the school to create an environment of learning.

Additional resources – technology

I would love to have a computer for 1st -6th grade students. We need a system that cares about children. Sometimes we are underutilized because there is no investment made in us as teachers. A set of resources needed are ESL, GED, computer programs, access to computers in the home, smart board, ELMO, we want our children to be able to compete they need to be introduced and taught how to use technology. NEED AN ELMO, e-readers, it’s cheaper to download books then buy books in the classroom.

Increased and more visible police security

Consolidating any group of children...I don’t care what area...you are going to have problems. Our school has an environment that will assist students with the transition from a receiving school to our welcoming school. Are building is a good building, a good environment it has the capability of going into the 22nd century.

New Sullivan: We had a Chicago police officer....he was part of our security team due to current trend of violence in schools....we need a Chicago POLICE officer presence in the school and in our communities when our children are faced with dangers.

New Sullivan parent: The children walking to school past 83rd face violence...there was a young man killed standing for the bus stop the other day. We need police escort, cars trucks, and paddy wagons whatever just to secure the safety of our children.